

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. In the Office Action, mailed January 22, 2007, the Examiner required election between two species disclosed within the application. Following entry of these amendments, claims 1-12, 25, 26, 28 and 29 will be pending in the application.

Formal Drawings

Applicants submit herewith formal drawings. Applicants have attached, as the Appendix to this Response, five (5) replacement drawing pages for the seven (7) figures in the application. Applicants request entry of these formal figures.

Election Response

In the Office Action, the Examiner defined two species: Species I being described in Figure 2 and drawn to claims 1-12, 26 and 29, and Species II being described in Figure 3 and drawn to claims 13-24, 27 and 30. The Examiner defined claims 25 and 28 as being generic claims.

Applicants elect to prosecute, without traverse, the claims drawn to Species I as indicated above in the listing of claims. Applicants withdraw from prosecution the claims drawn to Species II. The claims for prosecution, which are readable on Species I, are 1-12, 26 and 29. The withdrawn claims, which are readable on Species II, are 13-24, 27 and 30.

Applicants agree with the Examiner's assessment claims 25 and 28 are generic claims in the application. Applicants reserve the right, once these generic claims are deemed allowable, to request reinstatement and/or modification of the withdrawn claims or the limitations / subject matter of the withdrawn claims in this application.

Applicants further reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the generic claims and/or the non-elected species.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Charge Statement: For this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 24 APRIL 07

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